(Rs. in lakhs)

Head of Accounts	Budget Estimate 2002-2003
Other Academic Programme	200.00
Grants-in-aid to North Eastern Regional Institute for Water and Land Management, Tezpur	417.00
NE Regional Resource Management Project for Upland Areas/Externally Aided Project (IFAD Assisted)	850.00
Strengthening, Monitoring and Evaluation System in NEC Sectt.	150.00
Support for Promotion of Industrialisation in NER	800.00
Capital Section:	2500.00
4552	
Construction/Improvement of roads of Economic Importance/Inter-State Roads to be executed through the BRO	
Support for improvement of Airport in NE Region	1500.00
Housing for NEC Staff/NEC Guest House	120.00
7601	
Schemes of North Eastern Council	2397.25
3601	
Schemes of North Eastern Council	23152.00
GRAND TOTAL	
Revenue & Capital Section:	38632.50

Note. While the budget provision for NEC for 2002-03 is Rs. 450 crore, the above table gives the break-up of the on-going schemes only which adds up to about Rs. 386 crore.

Development of NER

1. SHRI RAJU PARMAR:
SHRI BHAGATRAM MANHAR:

Will the Minister of DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item captioned Development of North- East a priority, says Shourie which appeared in the Times of India, New Delhi, dated 4th October, 2002;

(b) whether the North Eastern-Region would soon become the hub of international investment from being a hot bed of insurgency;

(c) if so, whether Government are aware that payments to industrial houses, SSI units and others are not being made by North-Eastern States, particularly Government of Manipur; and

(d) if so, to what extent the development of North East would be viable when the payments for projects are not cleared promptly by these States?

THE MINISTER OF DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Government of India is committed for the speedy development of North-Eastern States. Towards this end, *inter-alia*, a workshop of International Aid Agencies was held in which enhancement of present level of assistance to the North Eastern States was discussed on 16th February, 2002. A North East Business Summit was also organized in Mumbai on 19th-20th July, 2002 to showcase the strength of the North Eastern Region and to present the significant business opportunities available for investors. There is enormous potential for development in North East. It can be realized, however, only if peace is ensured, and infrastructure bottlenecks are removed. On the latter, expeditious and honest implementation of projects is required. For such expeditious and timely implementation in turn accountability needs to be established.

(c) and (d) There have been occasional delays in payments. The department has tightened the monitoring of projects for which funds are specifically earmarked under Plan Schemes.

Utilization of funds for the development of NER

2. SHRI KARNENDU BHATTACHARJEE: Will the Minister of DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION be pleased to state:

(a) Whether it is a fact that no expenditure has been incurred during the last two years out of the funds allocated for the development of the entire North-Eastern Region;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken / proposed to be taken to draw up quick developmental programmes for the proper utilization of the funds earmarked for the purpose?